In the Claims

Please substitute the following amended claims for those currently pending.

1. (currently amended) A method ~~of providing information at the point of use of a window assembly~~ comprising the steps of:

providing masking material comprising a substrate and an adhesive disposed over a first face of the substrate;

~~pre-printing information on a second face of the substrate of the masking material; and~~

~~forming a protective covering comprising the masking material on a surface of a pane, the protective covering being sized and positioned so that an unmasked apron of the surface extends between an outer periphery of the protective covering and an outer periphery of the pane;~~

providing a pane having a surface;

calculating a number of strips and an overlap dimension for forming a protective covering sized so that an unmasked apron of the surface of the pane will surround the protective covering, the unmasked apron being large enough to receive a sash yet small enough that the protective covering protects a portion of the pane not covered by the sash;

forming a protective covering by applying a plurality of masking material strips onto the surface of the pane in a sequentially overlapping fashion with each subsequent strip partially overlapping a preceding strip by the overlap dimension; and

forming a tab by folding the substrate of at least one strip so that a first portion of the substrate overlaps a second portion of the substrate.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A method of providing information at the point of use of a window assembly comprising the steps of:

providing masking material comprising a substrate and a first adhesive disposed upon a first face of the substrate;

~~forming a protective covering on a surface of a pane using the masking material, the protective covering being sized and positioned so that an unmasked apron of the surface extends between an outer periphery of the protective covering and an outer periphery of the pane;~~

providing a pane having a pane surface;

calculating a number of strips and an overlap dimension for forming a protective covering sized so that an unmasked apron of the pane surface surrounds the protective covering, the unmasked apron being large enough to receive a sash yet small enough that the protective covering protects a portion of the pane not covered by the sash;

forming a protective covering by applying a plurality of masking material strips onto the pane surface in a sequentially overlapping fashion according to the overlap dimension; and

applying an information bearing sheet over the protective covering.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the information bearing sheet comprises a sheetstock and a second adhesive disposed upon a first face of the sheetstock.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the second adhesive has substantially greater adhesion than the first adhesive.

7. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the sheetstock comprises a substantially frangible material.

8. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the sheetstock comprises paper.

9. (currently amended) A window assembly, comprising:

an insulating glass unit including a first pane having a first surface;

a protective covering disposed over a masked portion of the first surface of the first pane;

the protective covering comprising a plurality of strips disposed across the first surface of the first pane in a sequentially overlapping fashion with each subsequent strip overlapping a portion of a preceding strip by an overlap dimension; and

the overlap dimension being selected ~~the protective covering being sized and positioned~~ so that an unmasked apron of the first surface extends between an outer periphery of the protective covering and an outer periphery of the pane, the unmasked apron being large enough to receive a sash yet small enough that the protective covering protects a portion of the pane not covered by the sash.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The window assembly of claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein the plurality of strips comprises a second strip partially overlapping a first strip, and a third strip partially overlapping the second strip; and

the first strip comprises a first tab.

12. (original) The window assembly of claim 10, wherein the plurality of strips comprises n strips with the nth strip partially overlapping an (n-1) strip of the plurality of protective strips.

13. (currently amended) The window assembly of claim 12, wherein the nth strip ~~includes indicia for indicating that the nth strip should be the first one removed~~ comprises an nth tab.

14. (original) The window assembly of claim 9, further including an information bearing sheet overlaying the protective covering.

15. (original) The window assembly of claim 14, wherein the information bearing sheet comprises a sheetstock having a first side and a second side.

16. (original) The window assembly of claim 14, wherein the information bearing sheet includes second indicia printed on a second side thereof.

17. (original) The window assembly of claim 14, wherein the information bearing sheet includes first indicia printed on a first side thereof.

18. (original) The window assembly of claim 17, wherein the information bearing sheet includes a second adhesive overlaying the first indicia and the first side of the sheetstock.

19. (original) The window assembly of claim 18, wherein the second adhesive has substantially greater adhesion than the first adhesive.

20. (original) The window assembly of claim 18, wherein the second adhesive and the protective covering are both substantially transparent to allow viewing of the first indicia therethrough.

21. (original) The window assembly of claim 18, wherein the second adhesive and the protective covering are both substantially translucent.

22. (original) The window assembly of claim 14, wherein the information bearing sheet includes indicia comprising an advertisement for goods likely to be purchased by a user of the window assembly.

23. (original) The window assembly of claim 14, wherein the information bearing sheet includes indicia comprising a National Fenestration Rating Council rating for the window assembly.

24. (original) The window assembly of claim 9, wherein each strip of the protective covering includes a tab portion.

25. (original) The window assembly of claim 24, wherein each strip of the protective covering comprises a substrate and an adhesive disposed over a first face of the substrate, and the tab portion of each strip comprises a first portion of the substrate folded so as to overlap a second portion of the substrate so that the adhesive overlaying the first portion is adhered to the adhesive overlaying the second portion.

26. (previously presented) A method of protecting a masked area of a surface comprising the steps of:

providing masking material having a width;

providing the width of the masking material to a masking calculator;

providing a desired width of the masked area to the masking calculator;

calculating a number of strips and an overlap dimension for forming a protective covering sized so that an unmasked apron of the first surface surrounds the protective covering; and

applying a plurality of strips to the surface in an overlapping fashion according to the overlap dimension.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the strips are applied in a sequential fashion with each subsequent strip partially overlapping a preceding strip by the overlap dimension.

28. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of providing the desired width of the masked area to the masking calculator includes the step of detecting a dimension of the planar surface.

29. (previously presented) A method of providing information at the point of use of a window assembly comprising the steps of:

applying a protective covering to a pane of the window assembly, the protective covering being sized and positioned so that an unmasked apron of the pane surrounds the protective covering;

providing information related to the window assembly;

printing the information on a sheet;

attaching the information bearing sheet to the protective covering; and

transporting the information bearing sheet and the window assembly to a point of use.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the unmasked apron is large enough to receive a sash yet small enough that the protective covering protects a portion of the pane not covered by the sash.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the window assembly comprises an insulating glass unit.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the unmasked apron is large enough to receive a sash yet small enough that the protective covering protects a portion of the pane not covered by the sash.

References Relied on by the Examiner

U.S. Pat. No. 1,284,997 to Bigler describes a roof construction in which strips of varying width are obtained by "cutting the fabric throughout it's length." (Page 1, lines 65-66.) A first, narrow strip of fabric 3 is laid on the lowest edge of a roof as shown in figure 1. A second strip of fabric 4 twice as wide as the first strip 3 is laid over the first strip 4. A third strip of fabric 5 three times as wide as the first strip 3, is laid over both first strip 3 and second strip 4. Then, a fourth strip of fabric 6 four times as wide as first strip 3, is laid over first strip 3, second strip 4, and third strip 5. (page 1, lines 48-60.) "The object of laying the roof in this way is to have it, when completed, of exactly four-ply thickness throughout." (Page 1, lines 93-96.) In figure 1, the fabric strips 3, 4, 5, 6, etc. are shown extending across the entire length of the roof.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,940,622 to Leavett, Sr. is entitled Image Bearing Sign Affixed to a Window. Figure 1 of this patent is a perspective view of the rear portion of a vehicle with a display sign secured to the rear window.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,330,232 to Smith is entitled clear window label. Figure 4 of this patent shows a label 28 including an adhesive that is pressed into contact with the inside surface of a window 30 (column 3, lines 56-59). Smith teaches that when this is done, non-variable indica 25 and variable indicia 27 are visible and readable through window 30 (column 3, lines 59-62). In figure 4, label 28 is shown extending across the entire length of window 30.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,866,260 to Adams, Jr. is entitled Masked Glazing Panels. Figures 1-6 illustrate a procedure for making a glazing assembly. (Column 2, Lines 32-33). Figure 1 shows a typical glazing panel. (Column 2, Line 35). The illustrated glazing panel 18 has a first planer surface 20, a second planer surface 21, and four edge surfaces. In a first step, bodies of masking material 22, 24 are respectively positioned on the surfaces 20, 21 of the pane 18. In the illustrated embodiment of figure 2, the bodies 22, 24 cover the entire areas of

the surfaces 20,21. (Column 2, Lines 43-48). Next, strips of the masking material are removed from two marginal regions 20A which extend along opposite edges of the surface 20. This leaves a body 22A of masking material as shown in figure 3A. (Column 2, Lines 51-53). Next, strips of the masking material are removed from other marginal portions 20B of the surface 20 leaving a body 22B of masking material as shown in figure 4. (Column 2, Lines 55-58). The marginal regions 20A and 20B are together referred to as perimeter region of the surface 20 in the text of the patent. The remainder of the surface 20 is referred to as a central region 20C.